

I wish to respectfully voice my opposition to what I understand is a "done deal" regarding the further relaxation of rules limiting a single corporation from owning multiple media outlets. The fact that such a vitally important issue has been so poorly covered in an already compromised media defines for me the dangers that lie ahead if further relaxation of the rules becomes reality. I cannot see how concentrating media ownership in the hands of a few powerful concerns, for whom profit and power are the sole motivation under which they operate, can be in the "public interest", that the FCC is sworn to protect and uphold. It doesn't matter how many TV stations, radio stations, newspapers or internet sites are available to an area if crossover ownership of these resources allows only the voices and views of a limited number of corporate owners to be heard or expressed. In my view this is a direct and dangerous threat to our democratic principles and society. We, the people, rely on multiple media resources to give us balanced news and commentary on the issues that face us and we need to know where this information comes from and by whom it is directed. When that news and commentary all come from the same limited sources, with their own agendas, beholden only to the "bottom line" and those who might affect or influence that bottom line, where are the protections that provide citizens with viewpoints from a diversity of sources? It is already painfully difficult to ascertain who indeed owns what and how often we hear one voice in many media disguised as a plurality of voices. It is also painfully difficult to put one's trust in any media resource. I truly hope that what has been proposed is not, in fact, a "done deal", Thank you for your kind attention.